[135] China has significant deposits of tin and produced in the 1930's between 3 and 4 per cent of the world's tin ore. It is mined in the southwest tableland of Yünnan and Kwangsi, and in the hills which form the divide between the Hsi and Hsiang River basins (in Kwangsi and Hunan), but no tin was smelted anywhere in China until 1932, when a small plant was established at the largest Chinese mine in Yünnan. The ore, and the small amount of smelted tin were almost entirely exported. China before 1937 was the leading world producer of both tungsten and antimony, and Shanghai was able to fill its own small needs for these alloys entirely from domestic sources. Both ores were mined predominantly in the basins of the Hsiang and Yüan Rivers in Hunan, and over 90 per cent of the total production of both ores was exported, nearly all of it through Shanghai.

Hides for the leather industry in Shanghai, and for export, came to the city, in order of importance, from Manchuria by sea, Tientsin (which acted as the main collecting center for hides from the grazing lands of northwest China) by sea, Shantung (Tsingtao and Tsinan) by both sea and rail, and from Hankow (collecting center for the hides of central China) and Szechuan via the Yangtze. Hides from Kiangsu and Chekiang were considered greatly inferior as well as being very limited in quantity in this animal-poor area of intensive hand agriculture, and accounted for less than 3 per cent of Shanghai's total supply.[29] Rubber was of course entirely imported.

Shanghai's wood-working, furniture, and paper industries were almost entirely dependent on imported wood from Canada, the United States, and Scandinavia. The delta area produces no wood at all, and the nearest commercially usable stands are in the hills along the Chientang River south and west of Hangchow, but they are small and of poor quality. About one-tenth of the quantity of foreign imports came in by junk from south China, particularly from Foochow, the lumber center of the China coast by virtue of the heavily wooded slopes of the Wu Yi and Ta Yü ranges, too steep for agriculture and not crossed by any important transport routes.[30]

The two leading chemical industries, soap and matches, provide in the sources of their raw materials an illustration of Shanghai's position as a manufacturing center in an otherwise pre-industrial economy. There were about fifty soap factories in Shanghai in the